

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES \$2.4 MILLION EXPANSION IN RUTHERFORD COUNTY
One North Carolina Fund Helps Plastic Packaging Add 37 New Jobs to the Local Workforce

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley announced today that Plastic Packaging Inc. will expand its Forest City manufacturing facility creating 37 new jobs and investing \$2.4 million in the area. The expansion was made possible in part by a \$31,775 grant from the One North Carolina Fund.

“Plastic Packaging’s decision to expand here in North Carolina proves that our investments in education and infrastructure are continuing to bring good jobs to hard-working citizens in our state,” Easley said. “I am working aggressively every day to ensure that North Carolina continues to make those smart investments so companies such as Plastic Packaging can continue to succeed and grow here.”

The Hickory-based company has been manufacturing flexible plastic materials since 1957. Plastic Packaging began by making hosiery bags, but production has since expanded to include a variety of flexible plastic packaging. The company’s products include, fish food pouches, plastic bags for new pillows and plastic sleeve labels. With the nation’s retail market expanding, Plastic Packaging needed to expand its production capabilities to meet their growing product demand.

Plastic Packaging currently employs 297 workers in North Carolina including 70 at the Forest City manufacturing plant. The average salary for the 37 new jobs will be \$410 per week, not including benefits.

Company President Bert Brinkley said Plastic Packaging, which also has a plant in Aberdeen, has been successful in North Carolina. “We have been able to thrive here because of the great workforce and the state’s friendly business climate that included state and local incentives,” Brinkley said.

The One North Carolina Fund helps the state recruit and expand quality jobs by providing financial assistance to businesses or industries deemed by the governor to be vital to a healthy and growing state economy. Through the use of this Fund, more than 16,000 jobs and \$2 billion in investment have been created since 2001.

For more information about Plastic Packaging or possible job opportunities with the company, visit www.ppi-hky.com.

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